



4-H Family News

MAY 2026

Kalamazoo County

**Beyond
Ready**GROWING TOGETHER
STRONGER THAN EVER

4-H EXPLORATION DAYS 2026

4-H Exploration Days Orientation

May 19 2026 6:30 pm VIA Zoom

**This is required for all youth registered for
Exploration Days.**

**The link will be emailed to the youth who
are registered with details on May 15.**

Fair Enrollment opens May 13!

Enrollment is through Fair Entry, it's Easy!

1. <https://fairentry.com>
2. Click "Find Your Fair" at the top
3. Search "Kalamazoo" on the keyword search or look where sorted by state.
4. "Sign in with 4-H online"

Follow the prompts to register for our Fair!!

Find more Fair Entry registration tips here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/fair-information

Or go to page 3.

Fair Entry

CONTACT US

Veronica Bolhuis

4-H Program Coordinator

(269) 383-8867

bolhuisv@msu.edu**Will Barnwell**

4-H Program Instructor

(269) 383-8878

barnwe18@msu.edu

MSU Extension Office Phone & Email-

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.

Suite 306

Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

269-383-8830

msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu

WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>**Facebook Page**<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>

Program-122047197873078

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ServSafe Food Handling Certification



Date:
May 16, 2026



Time:
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST



Who:
Open to Teens and Adults



Location:
New Hope Community Church
9300 E. D Ave,
Richland, MI 49083



Cost:
\$20.00 per a person**



Pre-Registration Required
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SSFoodHandlerKzoo/> or through QR code.



****Scholarships
may be
available
through your
local MSU
Extension office**

Questions:

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program
Coordinator
269-383-8830
bolhuisv@msu.edu

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/servsafe/>



Enrollment for the Kalamazoo County Fair will be open May 13-June 15!

Kalamazoo County 4-H is again using a system called *FairEntry* for 2026 Fair registration.

It's easy to sign in to FairEntry!

- Go to <https://faireentry.com/Public/FindYourFair>
- search by state to find your fair
- sign in with your 4-H Online credentials!

If you would like help with Registration:

**Online and in person help is available
See schedule on the next page.**

When signing in to Fair Entry:

Always use the 4-H Online Option.
Do not use the FairEntry sign up option.

**If you need assistance signing in with your 4-H Online username or password,
Please contact us at 269-383-8830**



For Step-by-Step FairEntry registration, please visit the links below:

- [How to log in to Fair Entry](#)
- [FairEntry Help Video](#)
- [FairEntry tip sheet](#)
- [FairEntry important reminders](#)



Need help with FairEntry?

Meet with 4-H staff, online or in person, on one of the following dates for open office hours.

May 14 – 12-1pm

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98677985219>

Meeting ID: 986 7798 5219

Passcode: 011761

May 18- 12-1pm

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99378387184>

Meeting ID: 993 7838 7184

Passcode: 306195

May 26- 12-1pm

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93867883632>

Meeting ID: 938 6788 3632

Passcode: 045398

May 27- 6:30 – 8 pm

Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Room C

Bring a laptop with you

June 2- 6:30 -8 pm

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97141745141>

Meeting ID: 971 4174 5141

Passcode: 977385

June 11- 7-8 pm

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97079871519>

Meeting ID: 970 7987 1519

Passcode: 379846





Congratulations Class of 2026!

**Grant S.
Leah N.
Shelby G.
Carissa M.
Kaylee P.
Aidan R.
Isobel N.
Ashlin A.
Paola V.
Amari M.
Zimari M.
Yaritza C.
Keely W.
Huck R.
Aleksander L.
Isaac H.
Lukas K.
Isabel S.
Anna W.**

**Vicksburg High School
Norton Academy
Reformed Heritage Christian School
Kalamazoo Central High School
Climax-Scotts High School
Plainwell High School
Vicksburg High School
Loy Norrix High School
Loy Norrix High School
Loy Norrix High School
Phoenix High School
KILP
Bridge Mount Christian Academy
Richardson University
Fairfield Academy
Hoekstra Home School
Howardsville Christian School
Mattawan High School
Legacy Academy**



Kalamazoo County Parks Department is looking for local groups and organizations to get involved in the 2026 Fair!



Exhibit at the 2026 Kalamazoo County Fair

The Fair is looking for vendors and community organizations to exhibit at the Fair. It's a great opportunity to connect with families across Kalamazoo County!

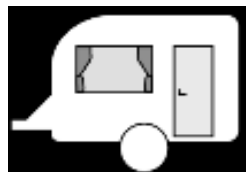
Commercial Vendors: Businesses and organizations looking to sell products or promote their services at the Fair.

Makers Market: Selling or promoting a handcrafted or handmade item? The Maker's Market is the place for you.

If you or someone you know fits into one of these categories, visit www.kalamazooountyfair.com for more information and registration forms.

Sponsor the Kalamazoo County Fair

We are expanding the Fair to bring our community together in exciting new ways by building on cherished traditions while introducing fresh entertainment, interactive attractions, and enhanced family-friendly activities. We need sponsors to help with financial support to assist with event costs including all the new entertainment and activities. If you know of a business or organization that might be interested in sponsoring the Fair, please reach out to Mandy Eldred at 269-383-8778. Or visit www.kalamazoocountyfair.com to see the 2026 sponsorship packages.



Fair Camping (details on next page)

Beginning May 1, you can call and make your camping reservations for the 2026 Fair. Cost is \$189 plus \$5 reservation fee for the week (8/2-8/9). Septic pump-outs will be available on Wednesday 8/5 for \$45. Camping units may be dropped off on Saturday, August 1, but no overnight camping is permitted on Saturday night. All campers must be removed from the grounds by Sunday 8/9 at 12pm. **To make reservations call 269-383-8778**



2026 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Camping Fees & Information

Beginning on May 1, 2026 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.

Camping Fees:	Weekly Rate - \$189.00 per week (8/2-8/9) Reservations made after July 24 are \$224 per week
Advance Reservation Fee:	One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all reservations
Septic Service:	A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 5.

Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!

Deadline for Camping Registration

July 24, 2026

Camping units may be dropped off from 9am-3pm on Saturday, August 1.

Overnight camping is NOT permitted on Saturday, August 1.

Overnight camping begins on Sunday, August 2.

All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 12:00 pm on Sunday, August 9

CAMPING POLICIES:

- Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.
- Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.
- Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.
- Cancellations will be accepted until July 24, 2026. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 24, 2026 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 24, 2026.
- Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.

AS A REMINDER: Golf Carts, Gators, ATV's (4-wheelers), UTV's (side-by-sides), ORV's, mini-bikes, go-carts and similar motorized devices are prohibited. Bicycles and Class 1 E-bikes (pedal assisted, up to 20mph) are permitted in the campground area only. Class 2 and 3 E-bikes and other electric motor devices are prohibited.



Kalamazoo Freedom School of Design: Applications Now Open!



Families are invited to apply for the ***Kalamazoo Freedom School of Design***, a summer program for youth Kindergarten (5 yr old as of Jan 2026) – 12th grade that focuses on learning, creativity, and confidence-building in a fun and supportive environment.

Freedom School gives young people a safe space to learn, express themselves, and build strong relationships with peers and caring adults. Through reading, art, design, and hands-on activities, students are encouraged to explore who they are, share their ideas, and grow as leaders.

This program is offered in partnership with Children’s Defense Fund, Zoo City Farm & Food Network, and Kalamazoo County 4-H.

What Is Freedom School?

Freedom School is a summer enrichment program that helps youth build a love of learning, strengthen reading skills and creativity, and discover interests in various post-secondary career pathways.

How 4-H Is Part of the Program

Youth who participate will also be enrolled in 4-H as part of a short-term club. This allows students to take part in hands-on activities that build life skills like cooperation, communication, and confidence while still enjoying the Freedom School experience.

How to Sign Up

Families must complete both steps below for their child to participate:

Step 1: Contact the Program Partner

Reach out to **Remi LaFary** at Zoo City Farm & Food Network to begin the Freedom School application process. Her email is remi@zoocityfood.com.

Step 2: Enroll in 4-H Online

Youth must also be enrolled through **4-H Online** <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>.

1. Log in to **4-H Online** (or create a family account if needed).
2. Select your child’s name.
3. Choose a **SPIN / Short-Term Club** to join.
4. Select **“2026 Kalamazoo Freedom School of Design.”**
5. Submit your enrollment.



For general questions, families may contact Will Barnwell, the Program Instructor for Kalamazoo County at barnwe18@msu.edu.

Thank you for your continued support of 4-H programs in Kalamazoo County for youth!



Your Kalamazoo 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved. It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*.
(https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/)

Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in several projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to lead them!



[Kalamazoo County 4-H Fair Volunteers](#)

Those who will be helping with 4-H activities during the Fair need to be, at minimum, a screened and approved, silver level volunteer. If you are working directly with youth you will need to be a screened, and approved, gold level volunteer.

All applications need to be submitted no later than June 20, 2026, for screening to be completed prior to the events.

Those completing the application after June 20th may not be able to complete the process and will not be eligible to help during the 4-H portion of the Kalamazoo County Fair. The definitions of silver and gold level volunteers can be found at FAQ (https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_faq). The application to apply to become an MSU Extension Volunteer can be found at Volunteer Home (https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home). For those who are currently approved silver level volunteers please read over the definition. If you would like to change your status to gold level, please reach out to Veronica and she will work with you to make those additions to your profile.



There are 4 in person YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) sessions and 1 online version in 2025-2026. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair 2026. There are two options- take 1 of the 5 face-to-face sessions or take the online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. 19 yr old and above will need to take the online version. The online version is \$12.00 and the curriculum is *age specific*. This certification is good for one year. There need to be a minimum of 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class. The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

June 4 - 6:30 pm

All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2026

Youth who would like to take **the face-to-face session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child Showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

Youth who would like to take **the online session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child Showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu by July 1, 2025.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:
https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php



2026 4-H Fair Schedule



Off site

- **Monday, July 27**, 6:00pm Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation - Pease Packing, Scotts, MI (Animals must arrive before 5:30pm)
- **Wednesday, July 29**, 10:00am Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements - Pease Packing, Scotts, MI
- **Friday, July 31**, 7:00pm Dairy Show - Vlietstra Dairy Farm, Kalamazoo, MI

At the Fairgrounds

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00 am – noon	Still Project Judging and Display Set Up	Main Expo Center and 4-H Barn
1:00 pm	Cat Show	Main Expo Center

Monday, August 3, 2026

9:00am	Horse Showmanship & English Performance Classes	Horse Arena
2:00-4:00pm	Livestock Practice	Livestock Arena
4:00 pm	Livestock Arena set up	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Rabbit Showmanship	Livestock Arena

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

9:00 am	Horse Dressage and Jumping Classes	Horse Arena
8:00 am	Poultry Show	Livestock Arena
1:00 pm	Market Rabbit Show	Livestock Arena
5:00 pm	Rabbit Agility	TBD
6:00 pm	Sheep Show	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Fashion Review	Demonstration and Performances Stage

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

9:00 am	Horse Western Classes	Horse Arena
9:00 am	Swine Show	Livestock Arena
4:00 pm	Feeder Calf Show	Livestock Arena
6:00 pm	Beef Show	Livestock Arena

Thursday, August 6, 2026

9:00 am	Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes	Horse Arena
9:00 am	Goat Show	Livestock Arena
1:00 pm	All Species Showmanship clinic	Livestock Arena
2:00 pm	Enduro- All Species Showmanship	Livestock Arena
4:00 pm	Miniature Horse Showmanship	Horse Arena
5:30 pm	Livestock Family Pizza Party and Auction Set Up	Livestock Arena

Friday, August 7, 2026

9:00 am	Livestock Auction	Livestock Arena
10:00 am	Horse Costume Class	Horse Arena
1:00 pm	Horse Fun and Games	Horse Arena
1:00 pm	Miniature Horse Show	Horse Arena
TBD	Horse Awards program	Horse Arena
7-10 pm	4-H Dance	Livestock Show Arena

Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:00 am	Dog Show	Main Expo
10:00 am	Livestock Judging Contest	Livestock Arena
12:00 pm	Horse Drill Team Demonstration	Horse Arena
12:00 pm	THANK YOU NOTES TURNED IN DEADLINE	Project Superintendents
2:00 pm	Milk Drinking Contest	Livestock Arena
3:00 pm	Master Showmanship	Livestock Arena



Kalamazoo COUNTY FAIR

August 4-8, 2026



This year's Fair is growing in meaningful ways. We are building on the beloved traditions our community cherishes while introducing fresh entertainment, interactive attractions, and enhanced family-friendly experiences. Our goal is simple: to bring our community together in a celebration that educates, promotes, and showcases all that makes Kalamazoo County a wonderful place to call home.

We have some exciting new activities coming to the Fair this year on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday! Enjoy daily attractions like Kiddie Land, classic carnival games, rock wall, mechanical bull, mini golf, petting farm, and pony rides for all ages. And of course, we'll have all your favorite fair foods like elephant ears, french fries, & corn dogs!

Our featured entertainment includes The Stone Age Show, The Steamers Thrill Show, and the Foam Fun Zone. The Community Stage will showcase local talent, princess sing-a-longs, and magic shows, while the Main Stage will feature karaoke during the day and a live band in the evenings. Wrapping up the week will be the Flying Star Rodeo on Saturday at 7pm.

Reservations for camping open May 1, you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center. Weekly rate is \$189.00 per week plus \$5.00 reservation fee (8/2-8/9).

You can also purchase your 4-H Family Fair admission pass when you reserve your camping. Fair admission will be \$40 per vehicle for the week and includes access to our featured entertainment and many of the activities. Please note that some attractions and the Rodeo will require separate tickets.

Call 269-383-8778 for reservations! Deadline for camping registration is July 24, 2026





HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

to Our Amazing Volunteers!



Alysia B.
Greg B.
Sarah B.
Betsy B.
Rebekah C.
Jeanne C.
Melissa D.
Jennifer G.
Chris G.
Claire G.
Wrifton G.
Robynne H.
Laura H.
Jessica K. Brandie K.
Wyatt K.
Md Hamza Kamal M.
Danielle R.
David R.
JulLea S.
Pam V.
Mary W.

Hooked on Clean Water

HOSTED BY KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H
AND KALAMAZOO COUNTY DRAIN OFFICE

Come Learn the art of baiting, casting and reeling in a new hobby! Fishing rods, tackle and bait will be provided!

This event and entry into the park is free. Bring your own picnic lunch.

All ages are welcome. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Scan the QR code to register for the SPIN club Hooked on Water. Registration is required and limited to 35 youth.



LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

Youth under 17 don't need a fishing license but must follow all fishing rules. Adults helping them must have a valid fishing license.



KALAMAZOO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of the Drain Commissioner

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

**June
13th**

**10:30 AM
to
2:30 PM**

**Markin Glen Park
J. Tyler Family Pavilion**

5300 N. Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49004



Contact: Sam Lawrence at
Samuel.Lawrence@kalcounty.com
or Will Barnwell at
barnwe18@msu.edu



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | **Extension**



DAIRY CLUB

Meeting at Vlietstra dairy Farm –
Monday May 18



Meetings will be weekly starting the week of June 8- night *tbd* by club members. All meetings are at 6:30 - dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for being around animals- no sandals . Join the Kalamazoo county 4-H Dairy Club on Facebook for up-to-date information.

Quick Guide to Sheep Fair Entry Classes

Department 6 – Sheep

All 4-H youth ages 8-19 should sign up for the following:

Showmanship: Required!

- Dept 6, Section R, Class 4251 – Junior (ages 8-11)
- Dept 6, Section R, Class 4252 – Intermediate (ages 12-15)
- Dept 6, Section R, Class 4253 – Senior (ages 16-19)



Educational Exhibit: Required!

Dept 6, Section T, Class 4265 – all youth (except cloverbuds)

If you are bringing market lambs to the fair, please sign up for the following class based on the number of animals you are bringing and whether you have ewes or wethers:

- Dept 6, Section Q, Class 4242 – Market Ewe
- Dept 6, Section Q, Class 4245 – Market Wether
- Dept 6, Section Q, Class 4248 – Owner Bred & Raised Pair of Lambs

If you are bringing breeding stock to the fair, please review sections B-P in the fair book. If you are bringing fleece to the fair, please review section S in the fair book.

Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) should sign up under Department 90. The sheep specific classes are:

- Dept 90, Section B, Class 7130, Sheep
- Dept 90, Section B, Class 7131 Sheep Showmanship
- Dept 90, Section B, Class 7132, Sheep Science (optional)



Poultry Project News

Happy Spring!

With the arrival of spring, birds are migrating again. This means that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is something to be aware of. Take the appropriate precautions to protect your flock!

We will be having a Poultry Project meeting on **Thursday, May 21st at 7pm** in Room B of the Expo center. We will be talking about bird selection and conditioning for showing among other things. ***You need to attend 3 meetings to bring your birds to the fair .***

We only have 2 more meetings scheduled - **June 18th and July 23rd.**

Be there or be square(or let the superintendents know if you have a scheduling problem).

A super fun Poultry Show happens Memorial Day weekend - the Saulk Trail Poultry Show (https://www.poultryshowcentral.com/Saulk_Trail_Poultry_Show.html) at the Hillsdale Fairgrounds. It isn't too far for a day trip to see LOTS of cool poultry, talk to the breeders and maybe even buy that next bird for your flock.

If you are in the market project, be sure to print out your market journal and fill in the appropriate details as your birds grow. Those can be found on the 4-H website (link below).

You also should be working on recruiting buyers.

The auction will be on Friday, August 7 at 10 AM.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock



BREED

Breed Chickens

- ~Standard Chicken Trio
- ~Bantam Chicken Trio
- ~Cock (1 year or older)
- ~Cockerel (less than 1 year)
- ~Hen (1 year & older)
- ~Pullet (less than 1 year)
- ~Barnyard Poultry Pet Class*

Breed Turkey

- ~Breeding Hen
- ~Breeding Tom

Breeding Waterfowl

- ~Breeding Duck
- ~Breeding Drake
- ~Breeding Goose
- ~Breeding Gander

Exotic Fowl (one of the following)

- ~Peafowl, quail, pheasant, or guinea fowl

Upcoming Pick up dates:

- Heavy Duck - 5/13
- Roaster - 5/28
- Pekin Duck - 6/10
- Broiler - 6/17
- Cornish - 6/24

SHOWMANSHIP

- ~Chicken
- ~Turkey

MARKET

- ~Roaster Chicken Pen
- ~Broiler_Chicken Pen
- ~Cornish Chicken Pen
- ~Tom Turkey
- ~Hen Turkey
- ~Heritage Tom
- ~Heritage Hen
- ~Heavy Duck Pen
- ~Pekin Duck Pen
- ~Market Geese

Market Journal

- ❖ Poultry ed ex
- ❖ Turkey ed ex
- ❖ Waterfowl ed ex
- ❖ Exotic fowl ed ex

STATIC ENTRIES:

- ~Eggs



NEW PROJECT GUIDELINES

We are working hard to add some new projects to our guidelines and the 4-H fair book. When we add new guidelines, we will post them both in the newsletter and on the Kalamazoo County 4-H Facebook page.

In January we added:

- Social recreation guidelines (under youth organizations)
- Languages/passport (under youth organizations)
- Beekeeping (under youth science)

In February we added the following guidelines:

- Backyard BBQ/Grilling (under culinary arts)





Help Us Tell the 4-H Story

Are you a current or former 4-H member? We want to hear from YOU! 4-H youth and alumni — help us share the amazing impact of 4-H by telling your story:

• **Who** are you?

• **What kinds of projects** have you done or are you working on now?

• **Where** has the 4-H program taken you — or where is it leading you?

• **Why** was 4-H important in shaping your goals, your life, or who you are today?

• **When** were you (or are you) part of the program?

We're still collecting and sharing the incredible stories of Kalamazoo County 4-H youth and alumni! Your story helps show how 4-H builds skills, confidence, and leadership — helping you be **Beyond Ready** for anything.

Share your 4-H story here:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DsEDclMZ3PZ3IY



Scholarships are Available for Animal and Vet Science Camp

Michigan 4-H is hosting Animal and Vet Science Camp at MSU from July 6-9 and Kalamazoo County Livestock Superintendent Association (LSA) is offering scholarships to help you attend.

Designed for 4-H members ages 13-17, youth will explore fields and careers relating to animal science and veterinary medicine, visit MSU farms and facilities, and participate in numerous hands-on learning activities.

Registration opens April 1 at noon. Learn more

at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-and-veterinary-science-camp-2026>.

LSA is offering 10 \$100 scholarships (camp cost is \$120) to Kalamazoo Co 4-H livestock members who attend.

You can find the application to apply to the scholarship here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-for



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY®



ADULTING 101



2026 Schedule

- COOKING WITH CONFIDENCE - MAY 18 AT 6:30 PM
- AI AND YOU: SMART, SAFE & SAVVY - JUNE 11 AT 6:00 PM
- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK - JULY 8 AT 6:00 PM

Adulting 101- Cooking with Confidence

May 18, 2026 6:30PM - 7:30PM
Registration is required

As part of the MSU Extension's 4-H Adulting 101 webinar series, this session will help build your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence

More information and previous sessions can be found here:
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>



Ask Extension a Question

What's this weird bug?



How do I build my endurance for cross-country running?

When can I see the best fall leaves?



What happens if a new survey Shows my property line isn't where I thought it was?

[Ask Extension a Question!](#)

These are all real questions we've gotten from people like you. Good thing we can connect you directly with MSU Extension experts and trained Master Gardener volunteers to deliver real answers.

So when you're wondering about your garden, your budget, and everything in between — we're here to help you figure it out.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert/index#Ask>



Soil Testing

<https://homesoiltest.msu.edu/>

Lawn and garden plants require 18 nutrients for healthy growth and productivity. The soil is a reservoir of these nutrients. Plants utilize these nutrients, but they need to be replenished from time to time. By having your soil tested you can learn which nutrients are present and which ones need to be added depending on the plant(s) you are trying to grow. You can avoid over-application of fertilizers which can waste money, reduce plant quality and pollute streams, lakes and groundwater. Based on your soil test results, you will receive a custom fertilization program to meet the needs of your plants and safeguard the environment.



Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an “H” on each leaf.
- The numeral “4” separated from a capital “H” with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover’s stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement “18 USC 707” **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The “18 USC 707” should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H’s reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H’s can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H’s can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H’s can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H’s can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material



Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

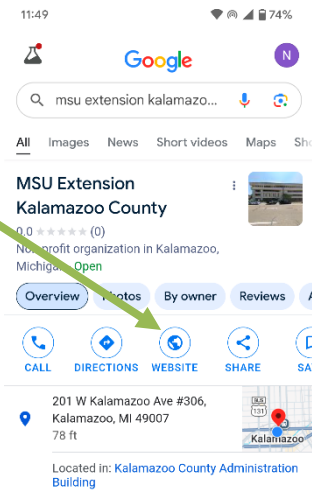
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

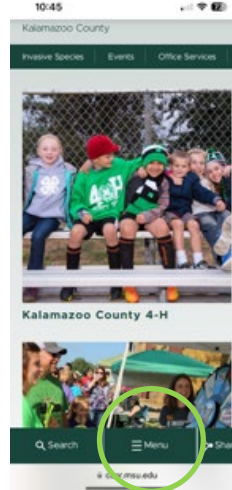
- 1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County
- 2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>
- 3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H
- 4 - Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen
- 5 - Click on project guidelines
- 6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



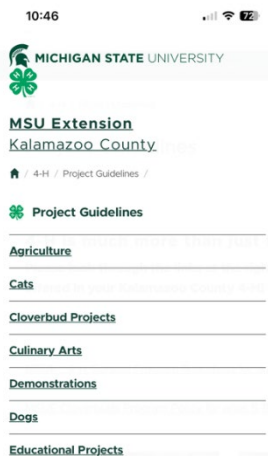
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group’s decisions.
7. **Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
8. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

Have fun!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Creating Beyond-Ready Youth Through 4-H Project Learning



Beyond Ready

4-H prepares youth for the world of work by engaging them in high quality, hands-on learning grounded in meaningful project content. When young people apply skills, solve real problems and reflect on their learning, they build confidence and readiness for future careers.

4-H programs intentionally create these opportunities, helping youth practice communication, teamwork, decision making and technical skills that transfer to real world settings. Some ways to deepen project work could include: adding real life tasks, inviting youth to demonstrate mastery or guiding reflection that connects the activity to future workplace expectations. Every project meeting is a chance to help youth become Beyond Ready, capable, and confident.

#BeyondReady

May 4: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

Online

Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's Youth Business Guide to Success. Discover how you can mentor youth in goal setting, budgeting, marketing and record-keeping for real-world skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects

May 5: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the five Ps of marketing and explore strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales and build valuable industry connections.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5

May 12: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn to keep track of what you spend and earn to make smart choices for market livestock projects. Equip youth with tools to track expenses, set goals and ensure projects are profitable and rewarding.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12

May 14: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered each Thursday from May 14 – June 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026

May 18: Adulting 101 Webinar – Cooking with Confidence

Online

Increase your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence

May 19: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Pitch to Payment

Online

Communication and outreach are important methods to recruit buyers for market livestock projects.

Discover how to use social media to promote your project, reach a wider audience and share progress.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19

June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."



Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.

Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.